THAI BOMB BLAST WOUNDS DOZENS, PG 12

Celebrity Buzz

Hudson admits to 'stalking' man

pg 22

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Share your transit views

COMMENT Calgary Transit can expect an earful from Julia Dorrington.

Early in 2009, Calgary Transit will solicit the opinions of more than 21,000 customers and Dorrington, a three-hour daily commuter, has plenty of suggestions she hopes to put forward.

"I could really go on and on and no kidding, we could be here all day," said Dorrington,

As council approved an additional 290,000 hours of service in its three-year budget, the squeaky wheels will get the first shot of grease.

"What they have to say will direct where we place the thrust of our efforts," said Transit's Ron Collins.

METRO CALGARY

Health pg 17

Myths about HIV/AIDS

Business pg 14

TSX takes a nosedive

Entertainment pg 19

T-Pain album about honesty

Your Money pg 15

Bartering is the new cash

Local pg 3

Bike fees not increasing

BLAIR GABLE/REUTERS

NDP Leader Jack Layton, from left, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion and Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe take part in a news conference in Ottawa yesterday. The leaders said they have written to the Governor General asking her to call on Dion to form a new government.

'Nonsense:' Stelmach

Alberta politicians react to political turmoil in Ottawa

JEFF CUMMINGS
for Metro Canada

Seeing the Liberals, New Democrats and the Bloc Quebecois agree to form an unprecedented coalition in Ottawa yesterday is "a sign of democracy" said Alberta's only NDP MP.

"Sixty-two per cent of Canadians voted for people other than (Prime Minister Stephen Harper's) government," said Edmonton-Strathcona MP Linda Duncan whose riding is an orange island in a Tory blue province.

"I'm sorry, but a minority of people voted for the Conservatives and when the opposition decides to band together, I'm sorry, that's the voice of the public."

The leaders of all three of Canada's opposition parties that signed to the historic deal all say the Conservatives are not doing enough to help Canadians cope with the world financial crisis that has plagued just about every sector across the country.

The parties are also angry Harper is proposing to end public financing for political parties, a move that will hit opposition parties particularly hard. Harper has since retreated from the move.

"All of us in the opposition are equally horrified at the complete lack of action by Harper on the economic crisis," said Duncan.

"This is a time when we need sane, prudent leadership when dealing with the bigger elephant in the room, which is the global economic crisis, a real concern to all Albertans."
Premier Ed Stelmach

Federal opposition parties, however, need to start focusing on putting Canada first by stopping "the nonsense," urged Premier Ed Stelmach to reporters yesterday.

"This is a time when we need sane, prudent leadership when dealing with the bigger elephant in the room, which is the global economic crisis, a real concern to all Albertans," said Stelmach during a media scrum.

"I think it's imperative that we move ahead with good, strong economic policies. Give us some predictability and some certainty in policies so we can attract the investment that's necessary."

Duncan told Metro that she would not see any backlash from voters in Alberta since the NDP was second among votes in the province, even higher than the Liberals.

WITH FILES FROM REUTERS

MORE COVERAGE/PGS 8, 13

Watch how the economic stimulus play a crucial role in the coalition deal
metronews.ca/canada

Arrest made in homicide cold case

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

MURDER A city woman has been arrested and charged with a four-year old homicide case.

A newly formed cold-case homicide team has laid first-degree murder charges against Elizabeth Roberts for the murder of 29-year-old Jennifer Renn, who was found dead in the trunk of a car near a south-east impound lot in February 2004.

"Certainly for (the) family, this helps bring a sense of closure."
Ken Marchant

Homicide Staff Sgt. Kevin Forsen was limited in the information he could give out because of an ongoing case before the courts, but it wasn't clear the connection between the two.

"I don't believe Ms. Renn did anything that would have led up to this or to endanger herself," he said.

Forsen said the victim and the suspect knew one another through associations, and police allege Renn was assaulted in a northwest motel room before she was found four days later in the trunk of the car.

Superintendent Ken Marchant said the fact the special team formed in late 2007, getting an arrest is significant.

"Certainly for Jennifer Renn's family, this helps bring a sense of closure, though there will be a long road with court proceedings," Marchant said.

Roberts will appear in court Monday to face charges.

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

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City housing market continues to fall
Calgary's housing market continued its downward slide last month with 39 per cent fewer homes coming off of the market compared to the same month in 2007. METRO CALGARY

Local

Winter toyland

The Round-Up Centre will find itself at the centre of the province's snowmobile and ATV universe this weekend as it hosts the Alberta Snowmobile Association's annual show. METRO CALGARY

Steinke admits to 2 murders

TRIAL Accused triple-murderer Jeremy Steinke took the stand in court yesterday and admitted to killing the parents of his then 12-year-old girlfriend, but not her younger brother.

Steinke testified in his defence and said he broke into the parents' house and stabbed them to death, and later witnessed his girlfriend cut her eight-year-old brother's throat in the 2006 Medicine Hat murders.

Earlier in the day, Steinke testified he had a troubled childhood of abuse and was bullied at school, and also testified he was on cocaine, ecstasy and drinking the night of the murders. METRO CALGARY

ParkPlus passes privacy standards

REPORT It's been confirmed: The Calgary ParkPlus System passes the information and privacy commissioner standards.

"The report validates the way we gather and protect the information required for the ParkPlus system," parking manager Dale Fraser said of the report released yesterday.

The new system, introduced in 2007, requires motorists to enter their licence plate numbers when paying by machine and when paying by phone, to enter name and credit card information, as well. METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Bike courier Sean Speer parks his bike in front of Bankers Hall on Stephen Avenue. Brookfield Properties, which owns the Bankers Hall buildings and the Petro-Canada tower, is denying reports it plans to boost the fee for bike parking five-fold.

Bike fees not increasing

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Despite media reports suggesting that bicycle parking fees were going to increase to $500 from $100 per year, the national property owner says that was false.

On Sunday, media reports said Brookfield Properties, which has head offices in New York and Toronto, would be increasing the fees to park bicycles in the parkades, but a publicist for the company says the reports were "erroneous."

"We are not increasing the costs of parking bicycles at our properties. In fact, we try to accommodate and promote the practice, so the reports were actually false," spokesperson Melissa Coley said from the New York office.

Coley said someone from Calgary released the report in "error" but couldn't elaborate.

Initial reaction to the reports of the increase caused outrage among Calgarians.

"I can't believe last week they said they are going to charge people to park in the train lots, and now want to charge us more to park our bikes," Michelle Samson said.

Courier Sean Speer said he would even go as far as ditching the bike and returning to drive his car to work, because of another ongoing problem he noticed.

"I can't even park outside anymore because the city keeps cutting the bike racks out, too. It seems like they keep taking a lot out and there is nowhere left to leave our bikes," Speer added.

Local holdings

- Brookfield Properties owns eight buildings in Calgary including the Bankers Hall and the Petro-Canada Centre.

News in brief

CORRECTION Yesterday it was printed that Sony donated items to the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, which was incorrect. Duracell donated a Wii as part of Keegan Bruce's Entertainment Centre wish, but the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada purchased all other items associated with the wish. Metro regrets the error. METRO CALGARY

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What's online today.

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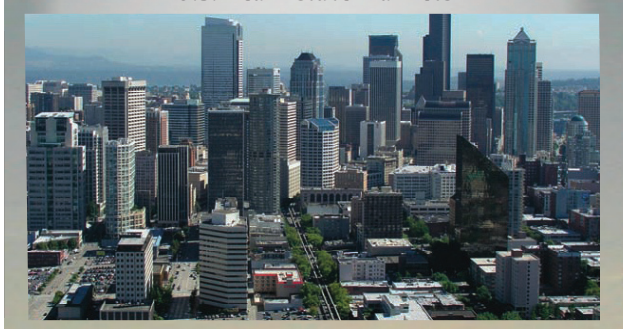

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Men can be mysterious creatures, especially when it comes to what turns them on. Wouldn't it be great to know exactly what gets him hot? Read what real men say gets them in the mood.

Getting all hot and bothered starts with just getting together. Let your man know when the time is right and he'll be more than happy to skip out on a boys night out in exchange for what you have in mind.

Ask your guy to tell you where he likes to be touched. There are more than just the obvious hotspots. Even better, try to figure it out together.

Being confident in bed is sexy. Don't force something you're not comfortable with. Stick with what feels right and it'll enhance the mood for the both of you.

(continued online...)

To read more, visit lifestyle.yahoo.ca

Fans wait hours for Stamps season tickets

More than 30 people jumped in line yesterday morning at McMahon stadium to ensure they got their hands on Calgary Stampeders season tickets. While tickets went on sale at 9 a.m., some waited nearly four hours. METRO CALGARY

NDP want syphilis inquiry

OUTBREAK Alberta's New Democrats are pressuring the premier to launch a public inquiry into the deaths of five babies who suffered from congenital syphilis and how the government handled the outbreak in Alberta.

"We think this is very serious and we are not going to let go of this because we've seen the situation where five innocent babies have died," said NDP Leader Brian Mason. METRO CALGARY

Cops need public's help in murder case

INVESTIGATION Brooks RCMP are seeking the public's help in determining what happened in the hours prior to Raimon Emilio Jing's murder.

Police are still trying to determine if Jing's murder was random or targeted and are hoping anyone who may have known him or have info will step forward.

Jing, 24, was found around 12 p.m. on Nov. 25. just south of Brooks by a passerby. METRO CALGARY

Government rolls out new health care vision

JEFF CUMMINGS
for Metro Canada

Clinics across the province will be providing some treatments only available in hospitals under a new 12-year plan that is expected to overhaul health care across the province.

Under the new plans, unveiled by Health Minister Ron Liepert yesterday, the province will also review all current and future hospital projects in order to make Alberta's health care system "more efficient."

"This is a comprehensive plan to change health care in Alberta," said Liepert.

The new changes to Alberta's health care system, however, isn't about dollars and cents — it's about making a system "that's actually working to deliver health care when people need it," said Liepert.

> **"It's not about cutting costs, it's about making health care more effective."**
> Ron Liepert

"It's not about cutting costs, it's about making health care more effective," said Liepert. "If there is cost savings out of this then that will be a bonus."

Liepert's "Vision 2020" plan, though, lacked specifics and no dollar figures were attached to any of the planned changes.

Liberal Health Critic Hugh McDonald says Liepert's new plan is a step-in for private health care, something he says the provincial government is keeping quiet about.

"There is nothing in here that we haven't seen before from this government," said NDP Leader Brian Mason.

"It's got all the right fluffy, feel-good catch phrases about restructuring the system to be more efficient for patients, but there is no substance."

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO CANADA

Provincial Health Minister Ron Liepert announced a long-term health-care plan for the province yesterday.

News in brief

BLAZE An October arson will be the subject of a Crime Stoppers re-enactment today as police hope to bring forward more information on the case. On Oct. 18 around 12:40 a.m., a 20-lb propane tank was set in the middle of the Sarcee pedestrian bridge and an accelerant was poured over the length of the bridge and set ablaze, but failed to blow up the tank.

PARTNERSHIP A $4 million Calgary centre could soon be up and running adjacent to Foothills Hospital, uniting mental health and neuroscience researchers under one roof to specialize in psychiatric disorders. The centre will be a partnership between the University of Calgary, Alberta Health and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute. METRO CALGARY

Living with AIDS still holds stigma

AWARENESS While 60,000 Canadians living with AIDS still face a stigma attached to the disease, the world is making progress, says a Calgary AIDS awareness organization on World AIDS Day yesterday.

"I believe one of the biggest things we try to do here is help people deal with the stigma attached. But there is still a sense of judgment attached," AIDS Calgary executive director Susan Cress said.

Which is why getting together to raise awareness on World AIDS Day across the globe — including here in Calgary — is so important, a man living with AIDS told Metro.

Damian, 39, who wishes to withhold his last name, has lived with AIDS for 10 years now and says it's been a struggle within society to feel accepted.

"I think the biggest thing people need to remember is that they are more of a risk to me getting sick, than I am a risk to them," he said.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

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Private car sellers should beware of fraud, cops warn
City cops are investigating at least two cases of vehicle fraud where a suspect has been using false bank drafts to purchase vehicles. METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI / FOR METRO CALGARY

Peter Buur, president of the Magic of Christmas, and Vanessa Clarke (a.k.a. Vanneggle the helper elf) are surrounded by gifts that have been donated to the Magic of Christmas charity.

Spreading the Magic

NEIL MACKINNON
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

It's a good thing the fat, white-bearded, old guy knows how to turn on the backstretch charm.

A 15,000-square-foot slab of southeast Calgary warehouse space sits mostly barren now. In the coming weeks, however, it will be bustling with holiday cheer, as Santa and his elves pull up their woolen socks in an effort to bring the Magic of Christmas to hundreds of local families.

"Unfortunately, we have a lot more people that are hurting, the economic downturn has forced a lot more people into a situation where they can't necessarily provide the things they'd like to," said Magic of Christmas Charity president Peter Buur, whose organization has been helping tend unmet needs for 26 years.

On Christmas Eve, a fleet of reindeer-decorated Calgary Transit buses, driven by volunteers, will hustle jolly ol' Saint Nick around town, delivering gifts.

Donations can be dropped off until Dec. 24 at the Magic of Christmas headquarters at 225 58 Ave. SE, or any Little Caesars, Fountain Tire or Auto Value stores.

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Iran accuses Canada of human rights violations
Iran accused Canada yesterday of violating the rights of its indigenous people, after Ottawa proposed a UN resolution condemning human rights violations in the Islamic Republic. REUTERS

Canada

Nestle faces ad complaint

Environmental groups have filed a misleading advertising complaint against Nestle disputing claims in an ad by the company that its bottled water has numerous ecological benefits. The groups said Nestle Waters Canada contravened the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards "by making false and misleading statements" in full-page newspaper ads in October. REUTERS

NDP asks RCMP to look into tape

Layton wants answers for Conservative transcript of caucus teleconference

The New Democrats have asked the RCMP to investigate a possible breach of the Criminal Code after a caucus teleconference was intercepted by a Conservative MP and released to the media.

The NDP said in a letter to the Mounties that Conservative British Columbia MP John Duncan recorded the conversation when he "was neither the originator nor the intended recipient of the communication," even though an e-mail was mistakenly sent to him inviting him to take part.

"I request that the RCMP initiate an investigation into a possible violation of the Criminal Code of Canada as a result of the interception and recording of the communication," Anne McGrath, chief of staff for NDP Leader Jack Layton, stated in the letter sent out yesterday.

A question of ethics

• Margaret Ann Wilkinson, a professor of law at the University of Western Ontario, said it may be illegal to listen in on a telephone conservation, but "he got an e-mail that gave him the call-in for this teleconference."

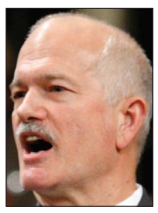
Wilkinson said that information would be "extremely material" to defending against allegations of wrongdoing.

"If he had that invitation to dial in there's just going to be no question of criminal culpability there," she told Torstar News Service.

Wilkinson said it may have been "inappropriate and unethical," but not illegal.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office handed out copies of the recording on Sunday to reporters, claiming the tape showed Layton and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe had conspired some time ago to topple the Conservative government.

But both parties maintain their negotiations did not begin until after the Conservative government released last month's throne speech and that things ramped up after the government's controversial economic update.


Jack Layton

In a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, McGrath urged him to stop his office and Duncan from further disseminating the recording, "which was obtained as a result of the covert participation in the conference call and created unlawfully."

Toronto criminal lawyer Clayton Ruby said what Duncan did was legally wrong since he was not an "intended recipient" as prescribed by law.

"If they include you by mistake, you're not an intended recipient," Ruby said, adding that the PMO compounded the breach by distributing the tape.

But his advice to the NDP was "to suck it up and move on" since it is a minor offence at a time when the party should be concentrating on the task at hand. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian tourists evacuated from explosive situation

THAILAND Members of a Canadian tour group stranded in Thailand as violence escalates were set to fly out of a naval base this morning, after accepting an offer from the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok.

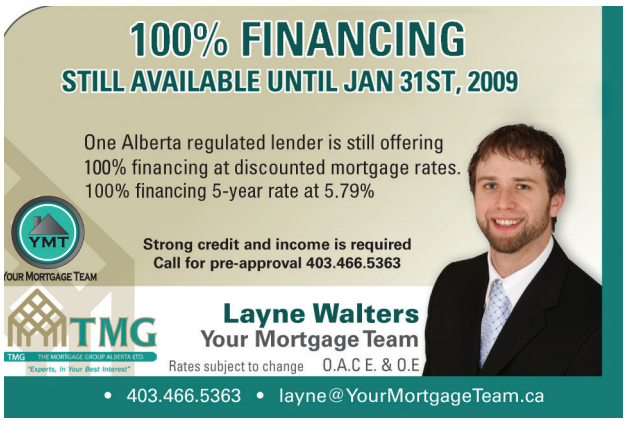
But only 37 of the 82 travellers in the group agreed to the Canadian government's arrangement for seats to Hong Kong.

Members of the group, stranded by protests that have shutdown Bangkok's airports, criticized the embassy's delayed response.

"It (the unrest) could escalate at any time." Ken (Jiggs) McDonald

Though critical of the embassy's response, retired NHL broadcaster Ken (Jiggs) McDonald and his wife Marilyn, from Orillia, Ont., accepted seats for $639 each.

"It (the unrest) could escalate at any time, so Marilyn and I chose the option of going to Hong Kong," McDonald, 70, said by phone from his Bangkok hotel room, noting the embassy's offer came late yesterday in a meeting with a Canadian diplomat. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Ottawa **Defending the arts**

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO CANADA

More than 200 people packed into Ottawa's council chambers yesterday to protest proposed cuts to arts funding. The nation's capital is proposing a $4.1-million cut to arts funding as part of overall spending cuts that add up to $35 million, while property taxes would be hiked by 4.9 per cent.

News in brief

MANITOBA Nathan Boryskavich, 43, of Belmont, Man., died Saturday after being hit with pepper spray by RCMP in The Pas, Man., CBC New Online reports. Police had arrested Boryskavich, but say he became combative. The RCMP said during the struggle, pepper spray was used against him.

NO COMMENT Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams, who waged an "Anybody but Conservative" campaign during October's federal election, is refusing to comment on the attempts at a coalition government in Ottawa, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Canada an environmental drunk, eco-action group says

Canada is an environmental drunk driver and the UN hopes the nation sobers up for this year's climate conference in Poland. That was the message at a news conference held by the Ecology Action Centre in Nova Scotia yesterday morning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

FIRE People smashed through a window and screamed out for help yesterday morning as fire burned the top floors of a Dalhousie University residence building in Halifax. Firefighters were able to evacuate the hall before anyone was seriously hurt by the fire, which began around 5 a.m. About 60 people are now homeless.

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Helicopter tactical team deployed to Afghanistan

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
Metro Canada

Canada's only tactical helicopter squadron boarded a plane bound for Afghanistan early yesterday morning.

The 408 Squadron made up of 30 men and women were deployed as part of the Joint Task Force Afghanistan Air Wing,

"It's a lot of work. Over there, it's not easy," said Lt.-Col. Roger Gagnon, who will be heading the helicopter force on the mission.

Soldiers will be building hangar space and organizing storage for parts before the helicopters land, and the squadron takes to the skies.

The core of the mission will be flying combat support for heavy lift troop helicopters, and helping escort convoys through danger zones.

"It's very different than here. The desert conditions are very harsh," Gagnon said. "We have to walk before we run."

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES/METRO CANADA

Lt.-Col Roger Gagnon addresses troops in the 408 Squadron prior to leaving for Afghanistan early yesterday morning.

The choppers will take to the skies shortly after New Year's, Gagnon said.

Cpl. Carla Escobar, a 27-year-old Victoria-based reservist said goodbye to her family last week, for her first trip to Afghanistan, just in time for Christmas.

"I worry about the unknown, just not knowing what could happen," she said. "Though my best friend is already over there, and I brought my little Christmas tree with my little lights — it should be good Christmas."

Troops are expected to return home in April.

Watch members of the 408 talk about their mission at metronews.ca/local

Lobster prices at heart of Halifax fishermen strike

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada

Hundreds of fishermen blocked roads and ports to keep lobsters from leaving Nova Scotia yesterday.

The spontaneous strike began in the morning as rumours of another dip in the price of lobster spread over ship radios.

"You can't work for $3.25 (per pound of lobster)," said Digby fisherman Jody Smith. "We were hoping to hold our lobsters and get a better price and now they're talking about dropping them below $3.25. So it snowballed from there."

Smith estimates about 700 fishermen took part in the strike.

"We've been trying for two weeks to get a meeting, to get some kind of response that they recognize the problem in this industry. And all the fishermen hear is about that damn car plant in Windsor, Ontario," said Theriault.

"Well Nova Scotia's fishery is just as important as that car plant."

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Economy no excuse to stall on climate plans, UN delegates say
The economic slowdown is "no excuse" to neglect a fight against global warming that could widen water shortages to half of humanity by 2050, delegates told the opening of UN climate talks in Poland yesterday. REUTERS

World

EU sets standards for carmakers

European carmakers must cut global-warming gases from new vehicles by 18 per cent within the next six years, the EU agreed yesterday, after a long battle between environmentalists and an industry facing tough times. But the compromise was attacked by some environmentalists, who said it was tailored too neatly around big auto's demands and undermined EU efforts to lead the world in fighting climate change. REUTERS

News in brief

POLITICS U.S. president-elect Barack Obama's choice of Hillary Clinton as secretary of state gladdens Israel, but does not overjoy Arabs and Iranians keen for a new start after eight years of perceived U.S. calamities. Obama named his former rival Clinton to the post when he announced his national security team in Chicago yesterday.

ITALY Large parts of Venice were flooded yesterday as heavy rains and strong winds lashed the city, which is experiencing its highest water levels in 22 years. Ferry and water taxi services were suspended, and Venice's mayor urged people to stay indoors.

ARREST Federal authorities arrested the mayor of Birmingham, Ala., yesterday in a corruption probe surrounding a sewer bond debt that could lead to the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. REUTERS

More AIDS tests urged for babies

HEALTH The United Nations yesterday urged countries around the world to expand screening of newborn infants exposed to the virus that causes AIDS.

"Without appropriate treatment, half of children with HIV will die from an HIV-related cause by their second birthday," Ann Veneman, executive director of UNICEF, said about a new UN AIDS report launched in New York.

"Survival rates are up to 75 per cent higher for HIV-positive newborns who are diagnosed and begin treatment within their first 12 weeks," she said.

The report said there was visible progress in the fight against AIDS, but negative trends remain. The report warned that pregnant women were not receiving sufficient counselling necessary to teach them about contraception and safer infant feeding.

It said many children less than a year old were dying of AIDS-related illnesses before they are even tested for HIV. REUTERS

PHILIPPE WOJAZER/REUTERS

France's First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy delivers a speech during a news conference yesterday in Paris to announce she will work as an ambassador for the Global Fund to fight AIDS.

India pushing Pakistan to act

India demanded Pakistan take decisive action over deadly attacks in Mumbai it said were carried out by militants from its nuclear-armed rival, while the West urged co-operation.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa both were due in New Delhi, with the militant attacks that killed 183 people threatening to reverse improving ties with Pakistan.

India's foreign ministry said yesterday it called Pakistan's envoy to New Delhi and told him attackers, who investigators said had months of commando training in Pakistan, had come from there.

"It was conveyed to the Pakistan high commissioner that Pakistan's actions needed to match the sentiments expressed by its leadership that it wishes to have a qualitatively new relationship with India," a foreign ministry statement said.

Investigators said the militants were trained by the Lashkar-e-Taiba group, blamed for a 2001 attack on India's parliament. Pakistan yesterday rejected what it called unsubstantiated allegations of complicity in the attacks. REUTERS

Tourism threat

- Tourist arrivals in India are set to fall by up to 15 per cent this season after Islamist militants went on a three-day rampage in Mumbai, tour operators said yesterday.

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Calling all classical musicians
YouTube is inviting classical musicians around the world to submit two videos demonstrating their abilities. REUTERS

Bomb rips through Thai airport, leaves one dead

A bomb blast killed an anti-government protester and wounded 22 at Bangkok's blockaded Don Muang airport early today, hours before a vote fraud case that could deal a crippling blow to the government.

Channel 7 television said an M79 grenade was fired from a flyover near the domestic airport, which has been occupied by the People's Alliance for Democracy since last Thursday, part of the escalating campaign to topple the six-party ruling coalition.

An emergency services official said 17 of the wounded in the blast, which occurred shortly after midnight, had already been discharged from hospital.

The Constitutional Court has moved with uncharacteristic speed to wrap up a case that could dissolve the elected government. Its ruling could come as early as tomorrow.

The court is widely expected to order the disbanding of Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's People Power Party (PPP) and two coalition partners.

If it does, Somchai and other leaders would be barred from politics and many cabinet ministers would have to step down.

The PPP's dissolution, however, will not necessarily mean a snap election as many MPs will simply switch to a new "shell"party. REUTERS

Canadians killed

- Two Canadians who were among thousands of foreigners stranded by anti-government protests in Bangkok were killed when their van crashed on the way to catch a flight out of Thailand, police said.
- Four others, three Canadians and a Briton, were injured.

Chavez launches bid for re-election

VENEZUELA President Hugo Chavez launched a new campaign yesterday to change the country's constitution so he can stay in power for as long as he keeps winning elections, almost exactly a year after voters rejected the proposal.

President Hugo Chavez

The anti-U.S. socialist leader said he wanted to move quickly to revive the constitutional reforms he hopes will allow him to rule Venezuela for decades. REUTERS

News in brief

VIOLENCE Jewish settlers and Palestinians threw stones in clashes yesterday that injured five in the West Bank city of Hebron, where Jews want to stop the eviction of 13 settler families, witnesses said. Five Palestinians, including a 12-year-old boy, were injured, Palestinian medics in the flashpoint city said. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

PM down for the count

NationalReport

A week ago Stephen Harper was sitting pretty. He could comfortably look ahead to another long-lasting minority government.

There was no appetite in the opposition ranks to bring his government down.

But Stephen Harper, or Stephen Hubris as he is sometimes called, can't help himself. His brutally partisan and spiteful political instincts have too firm a grip on his soul. At a time of global economic crisis, at a time when cheap political partisanship should have been forgotten, he attempted a naked political power grab that has sealed his doom.

These types of leaders are usually described as political animals. But that's nowhere near strong enough for this PM. With this guy, there is no sense that politics is the pursuit of enlightened public policy. Rather, it is total Macbethian bloodsport. It's about sucking the political blood out of every opponent in sight. He thrives off it, lives off it. He's Count Stephen, political vampire.

And we can probably say now that the Count has given himself an expiration date.

(Harper) attempted a naked political power grab that has sealed his doom.

For a while he can run and consult his party's dirty-tricks handbook (200 pages) and hide.

He can avoid a confidence vote and the possibility of a weird and wobbly coalition government by proroguing Parliament. That would risk derision for Mr. Harper, as in "Look at the coward run."

And if he goes that route, it means he would have to come back with another throne speech early in the year. The opposition could vote him out then or, following that, on his budget. Meanwhile, having made such a colossal miscalculation on his economic statement, the daggers in his own party will soon be out for him. There was already uneasiness with him for his failing to win a majority when conditions seemed so right in the last campaign.

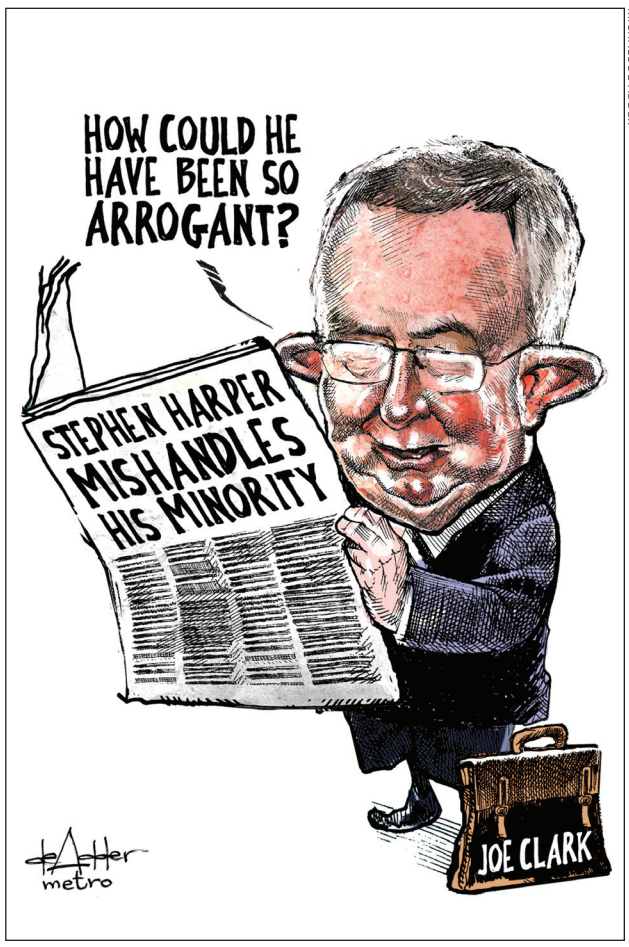
His one hope is that the Governor General buys the line that a coalition dependent on a separatist party for survival is not a viable option and calls another election.

Who knows what would happen then, if there was another campaign.

The disgust among Canadians would be incalculable.

Anyone could win, including Count Stephen.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Protecting arts funding should be a priority in Canada

I attended a rally over a month ago. The goal was to unite the artists of this country and remind them to vote for culture and that together, we have a strong voice, and we need to use it.

The election is over now, but I would like to see us hold on to the momentum

and learn a lesson from our Québécois contemporaries. Our prime minister has said that ordinary people are not interested in art.

He lets us know this in spite of his opinion, for he is a music lover and can actually play the piano himself. There's a play I wish Mr. Harper had seen. It's about growing up loving the piano, playing and practising for years only to discover you are not good enough to be a professional musician. 2 Pianos, 4 Hands played to sold-out audiences across Canada and America and continues to be performed on top stages around the world today.

It started with a tiny grant at a tiny theatre, and it's safe to say the investment paid off. Our friends in la belle province understand this.

We need look no further for a great model to continue to improve the relationship between art, business and government.

Melanie Doane is a Juno award-winning singer/songwriter whose new album, A Thousand Night, features Ron Sexsmith, Jim Cuddy and Emilie-Claire Barlow.

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Another U.S. rate cut possible
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said another interest-rate cut from the current one per cent is "certainly feasible," though he noted the move may not kickstart the economy. Many economists expect the cut to come by Dec. 16. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Air Canada lands $70M

Air Canada said yesterday that Groupe Aeroplan Inc., the operator of the airline's frequent-flyer plan, has agreed to speed payment for reward tickets issued under the plan, raising $70 million for the cash-strapped carrier.

Air Canada said in a statement the payment is for reward tickets issued by Aeroplan through May 29, 2009. The airline said Air Canada and Aeroplan have also agreed to unspecified "commercial terms that are beneficial to both parties."

Air Canada said the deal was a part of a move to improve short- and long-term liquidity by "both traditional and nontraditional means."

Last month the airline said it had $1.114 billion in cash on hand, not far above the $1 billion Air Canada said it considered to be a comfortable amount, and it planned to take steps to raise additional money.

"Air Canada has indicated they are looking for new sources of liquidity. This is obviously part of that plan."
Cameron Doerksen

"Air Canada has indicated they are looking for new sources of liquidity," said Cameron Doerksen, an analyst at Versant Partners. "This is obviously part of that plan."

Air Canada's class A shares fell 26 cents, or 12 per cent to $1.94 at midday yesterday on the Toronto Stock Exchange, while Groupe Aeroplan dropped 64 cents to $7.24.

REUTERS

England **Holiday shopping**

SUZANNE PLUNKETT/REUTERS

Actors dressed as Santa Claus race on scooters past John Lewis department store along Oxford Street during a photo call to promote Christmas shopping in London. The photo call was held last month to help motivate people to participate in the lagging economy.

TSX suffers its biggest net drop yet

MARKETS The S&P/TSX composite index fell 9.3 per cent, or 864.41 points, yesterday, its deepest net drop yet, as sliding commodity prices, gloomy U.S. economic news and the urge to take profits after six days of gains prompted a massive sell-off.

REUTERS

Economy rebounds in third quarter

RESULTS Canada's economy grew at a faster clip than expected in the third quarter, just before the global financial crisis intensified, as a rebound in goods-producing industries offset weak exports and consumer spending.

Statistics Canada said yesterday that Canada's gross domestic product expanded 1.3 per cent on an annualized basis in the third quarter, beating the market forecast of 1.1 per cent growth, after stagnating in the first half of the year. That compares with a U.S. economic contraction of 0.5 per cent in the same period.

"It was a bit better than the market was looking for and pretty close to what we were expecting," said Craig Wright, chief economist at Royal Bank.

REUTERS

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1.0%	0.2%	3.1%	2.7%	3.05%	2.5%	3.0%	0.05%

Note: Please check bank websites as some rates require a minimum account balance.

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Barter, trade or get it free

SmartCookies

smartcookies.com

Smart Cookies are all about living the sweet life without the sacrifice. And in recent months, we have needed to become even more creative in getting what we want for less.

So sit up and take note — we've got some savvy suggestions on how to save money on the things you want and, in some cases, even get them for free!

Barter

We all have a special skill or services that we can offer others. Why not barter for other services or products? A family we worked with on our W network show, Smart Cookies, actually bartered their daughter's entire wedding. And one of our Smart Cookies has bartered her marketing services for free personal training sessions. Just be sure that when you do barter, it is a fair trade. If you make $100 an hour and the person you are bartering with does work that is valued at $25 an hour, be sure that you do not do a one-hour swap — if you do, you will be devaluing your work and yourself!

Trade

Check to see if you can get what you are looking for through trading or swapping. There are a number of websites where you can exchange things you already own, and no longer want, for things you do want. The basic premise in which these sites are based is that you provide things you want to get rid of to other people, in exchange for points. With your points you purchase items that you might want from other individuals. Items up for swapping include books, DVDs, games and baby items. One of our favourites for books is *bookmooch.com*. Also, check out *Craigslist.com*, which offers swapping services and posts information about swap meets in your area.

Since coming together as a money group, we have saved thousands of dollars on clothes and other items. Not only do we share our stuff but we swap as well. Once a season, we get together with our friends and swap everything from clothes, magazines, to beauty products that we no longer need. Not only do you save money, but it is also a great way to get together with girlfriends without spending a ton of cash.

On the House

Who said you can't get anything for free? There are heaps of things that people no longer want but are willing to give away in the interest of recycling and reusing.

Check out *Craigslist.com* and *freecycle.ca* for things you might be looking for. We found a brand new medium sized pet carrier (perfect for our pampered pooch Lucy), a beautiful wine rack and even a new couch!

Also, if you are a new parent, tons of companies compete for your business by offering free samples, promotional packages and goodies. Check out freeparentstuff.ca.

For more ways to save check out *smartcookies.com* or pick up a copy of our book Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Smart Cookies e-mail us at *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column gives a market commentary for the past two weeks. Visit metronews.ca

Do the gains/losses dance

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

Q Two months ago, I sold a condo for a substantial gain. The condo was rented for the past two years. With decline in stock prices, this is a good opportunity to sell some losers to reduce my condo gains. These are solid stocks, so I will have my wife re-purchase them the next day to keep in my portfolio. I'm in the market for the long term. What percentage of my gains are taxed and losses deductible? Manny

A Generally, the profits from the sale of real estate are taxed as capital gains. Fifty per cent of the gains are taxed at your marginal tax rate. Capital gains can be reduced with capital losses from other investments such as stocks. Investors can use the sale of shares as a year-end tax planning strategy to either reduce gains or utilize carry-forward losses. Don't wait until Dec. 31, trades are generally settled in five business days.

However, individuals should consult their financial advisor. The sale of shares that result in a loss when the individual or spouse (or affiliated person) purchases the same shares within 30 days prior to or subsequent to the sale would be considered a "superficial loss." CRA will disallow the deduction and add the loss to the cost base of repurchased shares.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

Ronaldo searchable

Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo was named Yahoo Canada's most searched athlete for 2008 yesterday. U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps was second while Sidney Crosby was third. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Penn State mascot arrested

The Penn State University student who plays the Nittany Lion mascot was arrested on a DUI charge and his status for the Rose Bowl is in doubt, police and school officials said. James Sheep was pulled over by police Nov. 22, hours before Penn State's 49-18 win over Michigan State, University Police Capt. Bill Moerschbacher said yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

NFL New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress faced charges of criminal possession of a handgun yesterday following an apparent accidental shooting of himself in a Manhattan nightclub, prosecutors said. Burress was not asked to enter a plea at Manhattan Criminal Court and posted bail of $100,000 US.

NHL Quebec police say Hubert (Pit) Martin, a four-time NHL all-star in the 1960s and '70s, has died after his snowmobile plunged into an icy lake. Martin, 64, was driving the vehicle on a lake in northwestern Quebec on Sunday when the ice cracked and he plunged into the freezing water.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

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TONIGHT'S GAMES
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Toronto at Denver
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NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULT
Houston 30 Jacksonville 17

Oilers shakeup looming

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Brace yourself for a major shakeup involving the Edmonton Oilers.

NHL sources told Metro yesterday the Oilers are poised to complete a significant trade and/or fire coach Craig MacTavish, likely this week.

"They (the Oilers) have come nowhere close to what they expected to be this season and (club chief) Kevin Lowe is extremely annoyed," an NHL source said. "Kevin's just about ready to pull the trigger."

The Oilers were supposed to be a contender this season.

Oddsmakers reckoned they'd likely qualify for the playoffs. Yet they've turned out to be inconsistent, at best, and are below .500.

Pre-season prognostications predicting prolific production from the Oilers' forwards are proving false and it's actually defencemen leading the team in scoring.

Edmonton players are bracing themselves for changes, but defenceman Sheldon Souray hopes MacTavish isn't affected.

"It's not Mac's fault," Souray said. "It's up to the guys here to bring a little more and be a little more accountable for our production."

MacTavish is in his eighth season as the Oilers' coach. Only two of his counterparts — the Buffalo Sabres' Lindy Ruff (11 seasons) and the Nashville Predators' Barry Trotz (10) — have coached their NHL teams longer than MacTavish.

- From the hard-to-believe department comes information of a mind-boggling bidding war for pitcher A.J. Burnett, who is 31, injury-prone and has started 30 games in a season only twice.

The Blue Jays would like to re-sign the right-hander, but they won't come close to matching offers made by the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, Baltimore Orioles, Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies.

When all's said and done, Burnett will collect a guaranteed $85 million to $90 million US for five seasons. Unbelievable, eh?

- Syndicated baseball columnist Tracy Ringolsby listed Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi as one of his top turkeys for a U.S. Thanksgiving Day piece last week.

Why?

"For continuing to moan about the struggles of competing in a division that includes the free-spending Yankees and Red Sox while Tampa Bay, with the second-lowest payroll, was winning the American League East."

- The Milwaukee Brewers are dumping Quebec-born reliever Eric Gagne, who compiled a 5.44 earned-run average last season and lost the closer's role in May … The Red Sox are adding two quality Japanese pitchers — 22-year-old Junichi Tazawa and 33-year-old Kenjin Kawakami … Boston is also hot to trot after star first baseman Mark Texeira … And the Jays still covet slugger Milton Bradley, although they have yet to talk dollars with him — and he's leaning toward a deal with the Rays.

Talk Heat-ing up

- The Toronto Raptors, desperately attempting to strengthen their bench, are talking trade. NBA sources tell Metro's Marty York that Raps chief Bryan Colangelo spent part of the past weekend examining potential deals with Miami Heat counterpart Pat Riley, among others.

Economic crunch may hit NHL the hardest

The NHL will likely find itself on financial thin ice if the recession deepens, according to many leading economists and financiers in the sports community.

With no substantial American television contract, teams in questionable, non-traditional markets and a falling Canadian dollar, the National Hockey League will suffer more than North America's other major sports leagues in a prolonged economic downturn, according to those experts.

The upside for Canadian fans is that those economic woes could mean another team north of the border as owners look to the game's hotbeds as an economic salve.

Hockey is vulnerable in U.S. markets such as Washington, above, due to a lack of a TV contract south of the border.

"Hockey is the most vulnerable and that's primarily because of the lack of a TV contract in the United States," said Richard Powers, associate dean of Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto.

"I really do think we're going to see some contraction and/or relocation. And it's very likely we're going to see another franchise in Canada. Where it will end up, Winnipeg or southern Ontario, is anyone's guess. But the market here is ripe."

The NHL board of governors meets later this month with the state of the economy on the agenda.

Larry Grimes, president of W.B. Grimes and Co., which specializes in sports team acquisition, says the recent uptick in interest in hockey — its success with outdoor games, the marketing of Sidney Crosby and strong Stanley Cup ratings — might act as a buffer for the league.

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Self-diagnosis by search engine
Online health information is breeding a generation of cyberchondriacs — people who needlessly fear the worst diagnosis after surfing the net, says a Microsoft team that studied health-related web searches. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Health

Squashing high blood pressure

Getting more potassium may lower the risk of developing high blood pressure, and decrease blood pressure in people who already have it. Winter squash is a rich source: One cup (250 mL) of hubbard squash, for instance, provides about 16 per cent of what you need each day.
BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Debunking myths about HIV/AIDS

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Haven't heard much about HIV/AIDS lately? The disease is definitely still with us. "I think there's a misconception that the HIV/AIDS problem has gone away in Canada. And that is not the case," says Dr. Ann Stewart, Medical Director at Casey House in Toronto.

Every two hours, someone in Canada is infected with HIV. In fact, Ontario has experienced a shocking 75 per cent increase in HIV incidence rates in the last 10 years.

More and more of those contracting the virus are women and young people. And while medications have given many a chance to live their lives, doctors are starting to see premature aging in those who have been taking meds for a long time.

With the recent commemoration of World AIDS Day (yesterday), Casey House and the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation would like to blast some common myths about HIV.

MYTH: I won't get HIV because I'm straight and I don't use IV drugs.
FACT: Most people who become infected with HIV thought it couldn't happen to them. Although gay men and drug users are most at risk for contracting HIV, nearly 30 per cent of new infections in Canada now happen in women.

ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

Contracting HIV from touching, hugging or kissing is a myth. It can only be transmitted through semen, vaginal fluid, blood or breast milk.

MYTH: You can catch HIV from mosquito bites, or from touching, hugging or kissing someone who is HIV positive.
FACT: Only semen, vaginal fluid, blood or breast milk transmit HIV.

MYTH: I don't feel sick, therefore I don't have HIV.
FACT: You can have HIV and be symptom-free for many years. In fact, you may be extremely infectious.

MYTH: You can't get HIV from someone who is getting treatment.
FACT: Although treatment can impact the risk of infection, HIV can still be transmitted through unprotected sex with someone who is receiving treatment.

MYTH: A diagnosis of HIV is a death sentence.
FACT: People with HIV are living longer than ever before, but they remain vulnerable to developing AIDS and other serious diseases such as opportunistic cancers, heart disease, osteoporosis and diabetes, and must adhere to careful treatment (and its negative side effects) for the rest of their lives.

HIV rates across Canada

Alberta: There are approximately 3,200 people living with HIV/AIDS, with a much higher rate of infection in Edmonton than in Calgary.
B.C.: It's estimated 12,000 people are infected with HIV.
Ontario: Over 26,000 people live with HIV, and of those, 16,550 live in Toronto.
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Pregnant Indian women risk passing diabetes on to children, experts say
Up to 15 per cent of pregnant women in India are developing diabetes, raising the risk of their children developing the disease, said experts, who blamed factors including malnutrition, genetics and a sedentary lifestyle. India has the world's highest rate of diabetes. **REUTERS**

Lovers in a difficult time

Cheap date takes on a new meaning

The J Spot
Josey Vogels
Sex talk with Josey

It seems nothing can escape the effects of the economic crisis, even our love lives. According to Paul A. Falzone, CEO of worldwide dating services Together Dating, *togetherdating.com*, and The Right One, *therightone.com*, the demand for professional matchmaking apparently remains the same.

The one difference? More customers are paying on credit, he says. And they're taking the term "cheap date" literally.

Singles are using less cash and going out on more creative, yet inexpensive, dates, says Falzone. From catching a show at a community theatre instead of buying tickets for a play at a major theatre to choosing quaint, less expensive restaurants, singles are finding many ways to save money yet still have a great time on a date.

"It really isn't about where you go, what you do or how much money you spend on a date. It's about who you're with," says Falzone.

Other cheap-date ideas? Go to an art opening. You usually get free booze and the visuals give you and your date something to talk about.

Ice-skating is cheap but romantic and fun. And you have an excuse to keep each other warm.

Sex is fun and usually free. All you need is a willing partner. Of course, if you've been with the same partner for a while, you might want to spice things up.

But who can afford to shell out $300 for the designer sex toys currently on the market? Luckily, a trip to the Dollar Store can net you some nifty sexual enhancers.

Who can afford to shell out $300 for designer sex toys? Luckily, a trip to the Dollar Store can net you some nifty sexual enhancers.

Like a feather duster, which is fun for tickling and teasing. Toss on an apron, some high heels and nothing else and you can play maid. Buy a toy sheriff's kit and arrest your sweetie for indecent exposure. Grab a blindfold and a couple silk scarves to use as ankle and/or wrist restraints for a night of cheap, mildly kinky fun.

Find a sexy shot of your sweetheart and glue it to a square piece of cardboard. Cut out a cardboard arrow and attach it with a pronged paper fastener so you can spin the arrow.

Buy sticky dots and tell your partner to place the dots on the image wherever they'd like you to get busy. Spin the arrow and toss dice to determine how many minutes you must spend on the spot where the arrow lands.

Or simply buy some bubble-blowing liquid, light a few scented candles, blow bubbles, feed each other cheap chocolate (two bars for a buck!) and assure one another that you will get through this ... together.

JOHN DOWLAND
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Corbett hopeful for Sex sequel
Sex And The City star John Corbett is keen to reprise his role in the hit TV show for a sequel to this year's hit movie. Corbett reportedly hopes his character will be able to steal Carrie back from Mr. Big. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

Streep honours

Meryl Streep is up for awards in her roles in Doubt and Mamma Mia! at the 13th annual Satellite Awards in Los Angeles on Dec. 14.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Strippers, honesty on T-Pain's mind

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

PHOTO SUBMITTED

T-Pain prides his latest album Thr33 Rings on its honesty.

T-Pain's got a G-string thing, and he's not afraid to show it.

The 24-year-old hip-hop/R&B star pours his heart and his life into his music. He doesn't hide the facts from anybody — especially his wife.

And the fact is, T-Pain enjoys strippers. He had a hit with I'm N Luv (Wit a Stripper) two years ago. On his new album, Thr33 Ringz, he wrote the song Long Lap Dance to ensure clients get their money's worth at the club.

So is an appreciation of exotic dancers something a married man with two children — and another on the way — should be revealing? Sure!

"My wife is usually in the strip club with me," T-Pain said in a recent interview in Toronto. "I take her where I go. Everything I talk about, she knows. She knows the exact situation sometimes. She knows what stripper I was talking about because she probably got a dance from her, too."

That heart-on (the sleeve, I mean) approach to music permeates Thr33 Rings, which features plenty of catchy hooks, guest stars and strong vocals from T-Pain.

And he doesn't just sing about strippers. The understated, acoustic Keep Going is a shout out to the support he's received from wife Amber and the rest of his family.

T-Pain, born Faheem Rasheed Najm in Tallahassee, Fla., has already exceeded his career expectations by releasing Thr33 Ringz — his third CD.

"I didn't think I was going to come this far at all, you know what I'm saying?" said T-Pain, sporting his trademark shades and top hat at the Royal York. "I thought I was going to have one album and people would hate me after that."

Far from it. Aside from his own projects, T-Pain is a frequent guest on other people's recordings, Chris Brown's Kiss Kiss and R. Kelly's I'm a Flirt (Remix) among the best known.

But whether performing on someone else's recording date or his own, T-Pain approaches the material the same way.

"Just be honest with it," he said. "People want to know you. As an artist, people really want to get to know me. That's why people feel like they know me before they meet me, because I put my whole life on my albums."

Straight up — no apologies.

"It's honesty, man," T-Pain said. "That's why no one can blackmail me."

Accolades

- Good Life, T-Pain's collaboration with Kanye West, won the Grammy for best rap song earlier this year.

Entertainment in brief

Singer Britney Spears

YAHOO Barack Obama's presidential victory got more clicks than any other story on yahoo.com this year, but the most searched term was "Britney Spears," Yahoo Inc reported yesterday. In the Top 10 searches, Spears — the most popular search term for seven of the past eight years — was followed by World Wrestling Entertainment and then by Obama, Yahoo said.

MOVIES It's Bond once again on the overseas circuit as Quantum of Solace dominated the international box office for the fifth consecutive weekend. The Sony/MGM action feature tallied $20.1 million from 8,755 screens in 73 markets and raised its foreign gross to $340.1 million. It is $92 million away from overtaking 2006's Casino Royale as the biggest foreign grosser of the 22-title Bond series.

MORE ONLINE For DVD reviews of Wanted, and The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian, go to metronews.ca.

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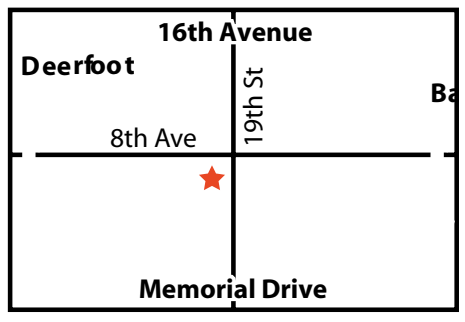

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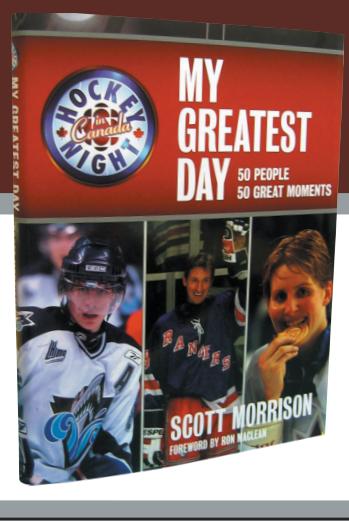

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Slumdog cleans up at British indie film awards

Slumdog Millionaire scooped three top prizes at the British Independent Film Awards in London on the weekend. The film won Best Director prize for Danny Boyle, Best Newcomer for teen actor Dev Patel and the Best Film award. IMDB.COM

Boy George admits handcuffing escort

Singer Boy George admitted to police that he handcuffed a male escort to his bed and threatened him, but was not going to kill him, a British court heard yesterday at his trial on false imprisonment charges.

Jurors at the trial of the former Culture Club frontman, being tried under his real name George O'Dowd, were played a recording of his police interview in April 2007.

"I absolutely admit I had him in the handcuffs, so he wouldn't go anywhere while I checked the computer. I certainly wasn't going to kill him, that's hardly going to do my career any good is it?" he told police.

O'Dowd, 47, met Norwegian male escort Audun Carlsen over the Internet and the pair arranged to meet for a pornographic photo shoot.

But the relationship turned sour after O'Dowd became suspicious that Carlsen was hacking into his computer and stealing the photos to use on his website.

Carlsen has accused O'Dowd of chaining him up on their second meeting at the singer's east London flat and beating him with a chain.

O'Dowd admitted to police that he had hit Carlsen before, but only through choice.

"You can't spank anyone if they don't want you to," he said, asserting that on the occasion in question he had not punched or assaulted the escort.

"I certainly wasn't going to kill him, that's hardly going to do my career any good is it?"
Singer Boy George

"Those are serious handcuffs, there was no reason to beat him up when I'd put him in those," he said.

"I was just so angry... I just wanted to make sure he did not leave my house."

O'Dowd denies the charge of false imprisonment. REUTERS

Madonna's Sticky and Sweet tour rakes in $95M and counting

MONEY The 28 dates on Madonna's just-concluded North American jaunt grossed about $91.5 million and moved about 550,000 tickets, according to tour producer Arthur Fogel, chairman of global music for Live Nation.

The venerable performer wrapped the North American leg of her Sticky & Sweet tour last week in front of 50,000 people at Dolphin Stadium in Miami. She then headed to Mexico City for shows on the weekend

Counting her European run, Madonna is at about $207.5 million in ticket sales and on a pace to hit about $282 million when the Mexico/South America leg of the tour wraps. REUTERS

Making records

- Counting European and North American sales, Madonna's tour is on track to make Sticky & Sweet the top-grossing tour ever by a female artist or solo artist.
- The tour, supporting her album Hard Candy, concludes with three nights Dec. 18-21 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. REUTERS

Queen hit joins Hall of Fame

MUSIC Queen's 1977 single We are the Champions/We Will Rock You is among 28 classic recordings that have been newly inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, BBC News Online reports.

Others include the Police's 1983 album Synchronicity, Stevie Wonder's For Once in My Life and the soundtrack for the film The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

The Hall Of Fame will form part of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles which opens on Saturday. Created in 1973, the collection now includes 826 titles. New submissions to the Grammy museum are chosen annually by a special member committee of experts. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ramsay swears he didn't cheat
Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has spoken out over allegations he cheated on his wife of 12 years, in his own inimitable style, calling the claims "b——." ANANOVA.COM

Five named to Fame faculty

MOVIES Actors Megan Mullally, Kelsey Grammer, Charles S. Dutton, Bebe Neuwirth and Debbie Allen have been tenured. The quintet has been chosen for administrative and teaching roles in the remake of Fame.

All five actors have noteworthy performing arts backgrounds. Mullally, who will play a voice instructor, graduated from the School of American Ballet; Grammer, who will play an orchestra conductor, attended Juilliard; Dutton, who will play an acting teacher, went to the Yale School of Drama; and Neuwirth, who will play a dance teacher, has won two Tonys.

Actress and choreographer Allen, who played dance teacher Lydia Grant in the original film and won a Golden Globe for her role in the spinoff television series, will appear in the updated version as Principal Simms.

Choreographer Kevin Tancharoen will direct the reinvention of the 1980 musical drama about a group of dancers, singers, actors and artists trying to survive four grueling years at New York City's prestigious High School of Performing Arts.

REUTERS

In brief

FILM Tommy Lee Wallace, the writer-director of Halloween III and Fright Night Part 2, is taking horror film fans back to school with Helliversity. Wallace will direct the film, in which a group of American exchange students is terrorized by a vengeful spirit while locked inside a high-security foreign university. REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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Everything's not coming up Rosie

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO, BUT ... Like the famous story of the New Yorker movie critic who was shocked at Richard Nixon's re-election since she didn't know anyone who voted for him, I kept reading stories about Rosie O'Donnell's NBC variety show and wondered who would be watching the thing, since I was sure no one I knew was.

Maybe, I wondered, they were just hiding it — like married men who watch porn or women in journalism who liked Sarah Palin — and Rosie's little retro project/labour of love would hit TV like Katrina.

"Tonight, Rosie is offering up what could be the beginning of something big," anticipated Roger Friedman on the Fox News website last week, imagining Rosie Live as — I kid you not — an "American Idol killer."

As much as I might fervently wish to see such a thing, it was never meant to be.

"The faint hope of the rebirth of the variety show died tonight," wrote Michael Rowe on Vanity Fair's website, among the apparently unanimous post-mortem chorus.

"Rosie, Rosie, what on Earth were you thinking?" wondered Mary McNamara of the Los Angeles Times.

"Were you thinking camp? Were you thinking this will be big and brassy and so-over-the-top even the dancing cupcakes will be irresistible?"

By this point you've probably figured out that no amount of money could have persuaded me to sit through Rosie Live, but the descriptions are intriguing, to say the least.

James Poniewozik describes "Alanis Morissette wearing what appeared to be Celine Dion's hair and wardrobe, singing a ballad while staring upward with unsettling intensity and standing in front of a karaoke video screen of flying geese."

GETTY IMAGES

Rosie O'Donnell's new variety show was panned by critics.

"Liza came up from under the stage, 'cause that's where she's been living since 1982," wrote Vanity Fair's Rowe, clearly warming to the task. "She was shakier than the floorboards that were holding up Rosie.

"I heard that later at the after-party they used her to mix the martinis. She did sing … Uh, well, it seemed to me that melody actually frightened her.

"It was as if she'd been conditioned with an electric dog collar, anticipating a high-powered zap whenever she barked out a note."

The good news is that, with just five million viewers, Rosie will be Live no more.

"No ratings. bad reviews. yet still — a thrill 4 me," O'Donnell wrote on her blog with customary text-messaging economy, as NBC's grimly fascinating death spiral continues with increasing velocity.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/2/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV		Eli Stone (HDTV) (N)		Pushing Daisies (N)		(10:01) Fringe "Safe"		Help TV
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		Without a Trace (N)		Criminal Minds		News (N)
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	The Tudors		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Road Kill" (N)		House (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:01) Kitchen Nightmares		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		According-Jim	According-Jim	Privileged (HDTV)		Hates Chris	Friends	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	La Facture	Babine-grandiose		Roxy (N) (SC)	Filantes	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
primetime	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		NCIS "Road Kill" (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Without Trace
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Brain Fitness 2: Sight and Sound			My Music: Love Songs of the 50s and 60s			Anuna: Cmas
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Norm Keep him at home.		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Norm
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	The Biggest Loser: Families (N)				Law/Ord SVU
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:01) Fringe "Safe"		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	Privileged (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	NHL Hockey		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			In This Corner	Boxing Verno Phillips vs. Paul Williams.		
	408	418	27 net	Flames Conn	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Calgary Flames. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports
	410	403	30 SCORE	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Denver Nuggets. (HDTV) (Live)					Score Tonight	24/7		
	411	457	44 OLN	Angry Planet	Flying Doctor	Which Way to...		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman
	417	406	48 SPEED	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Unique Whips	Hot Import	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	6teen	Total Drama	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad
	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Best Years (DVS)		The Biggest Loser: Families (N)				News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	How to Look Good Naked		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Good Naked
	521	560	24 TLC	Mystery Diagnosis		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Shocking Story		Mystery Diagnosis		Med. Examiner
	603	561	25 FOOD	The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		The F Word
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The Rookies	The Rookies	The Rookies	The Rookies	The First 48		The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Vivienne Vyle	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)		Testees	Trailer Park	The Shield (N)
	601	562	33 SLICE	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Tori & Dean: Home		Wedding SOS	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Tori & Dean
	-	633	34 ENC2	*Sunshine State*	(7:25) *The Wrong Guy* ★★ (1998, Comedy)			*Strange Brew* ★★ (1983, Comedy)			*The Great Outdoors* (1988)	
	520	505	35 DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs		Daily Planet		Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Let It Rock		Bravonews	Garrett Mason	Law & Order		Without a Trace		*Hostile Waters*
	294	650	40 WPCH	(6) *The Perfect Man*		Cheers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	*The Perfect Man* ★★ (2005) Hilary Duff.		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) *Citizen Kane* (DVS)		(8:15) *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942) (DVS)				*Journey Into Fear* (1942)		*Touch of Evil*
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY "Zoo York"		Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "SWAK"		Outlaw Bikers		Ax Men "The Close Call"		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Rabbit Fall (N)	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1		Lost		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *Out for Justice* (1991)		*Von Ryan's Express* ★★★ (1965, War) Frank Sinatra, Trevor Howard.					(10:45) *Road House*	
cable variety	619	525	49 TROP	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes on Homes		Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Pure Design
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.	Ghostly Enc.	Judging Amy		Commander
	269	350	93 APTN	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay (N)	Rez Rides	Fish Out	Mixed Blessing	First Nation	Rabbit Fall	Moccasin Flats
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Officina Italian	Qui si Parla	In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz
	571	581	100 MMM	Popaganda		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Party of Five		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	You Can Dance		Dance	TBA	MuchTopTens		Pimp My Ride	disBand	Technical Diff.
	581	566	102 MTV	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Paris Hilton's My New BFF (N)		MTV Live	After	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Paris Hilton

critics'corner

Fringe
While investigating a string of bank robberies, Olivia, Walter and Peter find one of the suspects trapped inside a vault as if the wall had solidified around him, leading them to believe that a group of thieves has found a way to defy the laws of physics. And Walter realizes the thieves are after something of his in "Safe." 10:01 PM on ACCESS KAYU

Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town
A mailman explains where Santa Claus came from in this animated special from 1970. The future jolly old man is a foundling left on the doorstep of the Kringles, a family of toymakers. They name him Kriss and he'd like nothing more than to give toys to youngsters, but Burgermeister Meisterburger will have none of that. 9 PM on KXLY

The Biggest Loser: Families
It's one of the most anticipated episodes of every season, and this year the five remaining contestants head to New York for new haircuts and a trip to Macy's, where "Project Runway" winner Christian Siriano helps them pick out new outfits. Then the contestants appear on "The Tyra Banks Show." 9 PM on CHTV KHQ

Armani denied hotel buyout
Fashion designer Giorgio Armani has had his multimillion-dollar offer to purchase top London, England, hotel The Berkeley rejected. **IMDB.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Hubby set to leave Winehouse

MARRIAGE Amy Winehouse's husband says he wants out of their marriage — for her sake, People.com reports.

"I have to let her go to save her life," Blake Fielder-Civil — who is currently in rehab after being released from jail in November — told a British newspaper Sunday. "I am not abandoning her. I am doing this out of love."

During the interview with the News of the World, Fielder-Civil also admits that he "introduced" the 25-year-old Winehouse to crack and heroin.

The former video production assistant — who wed Winehouse in 2007 — denies being after the singer's money and says he will not "fight her for anything."

Winehouse's U.K. spokesman, Chris Goodman, says he is unaware of anything formal underway to end the marriage.

Winehouse has not visited her husband at the rehab centre where he was sent as a condition of his early release. He spent almost a year behind bars after pleading guilty to charges of assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Meanwhile, Goodman tells People that the singer remains hospitalized at a London clinic and is "doing fine." The rep says she is being seen as part of her ongoing medical care.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No, Naomi's not getting married

MARRIAGE Naomi Campbell's representative has dismissed reports she's to wed her boyfriend, Vladimir Doronin, in a secret December ceremony in Russia, imdb.com reports.

Campbell sparked rumours of an engagement after she was pictured at a Moscow party sporting a large emerald sparkler on her ring finger.

British tabloids are now claiming Campbell is planning a small, low-key wedding, after reportedly inviting close friends and family to join the couple for a special Christmas vacation.

"Naomi asked them to save the date and be prepared to travel to Russia," a source tells the Sunday Mirror. "She's keeping tight-lipped about exactly what is happening — and has sworn everyone to secrecy."

Campbell's spokesman has denied the claims, saying, "She has no plans to be in Russia at that time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson once 'stalked' a crush

DATING Kate Hudson once "stalked" a man she was desperate to date, and even recruited her friends to help her track the unwitting suitor down, imdb.com reports.

The actress confesses she was so obsessed with an unnamed bachelor, she tried to manipulate meetings in the hope he would ask her out.

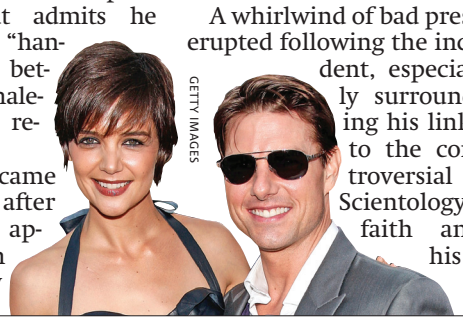
She doesn't reveal if her tactics worked, but admits, "I did go through this stalker phase. I was completely crazy about this one guy and used to drive by his house and get my friends to call me up if they saw him in a restaurant so I could show up."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cruise admits to erratic behaviour

PEOPLE Tom Cruise was stunned by the barrage of criticism he received after his infamous couch-jumping interview with Oprah Winfrey but admits he could have "handled things better," female-first.co.uk reports.

The actor came under fire after his bizarre appearance on the daily talk show in 2005, as he jumped up and down on the sofa, declaring his love for new girlfriend Katie Holmes.



GETTY IMAGES

A whirlwind of bad press erupted following the incident, especially surrounding his links to the controversial Scientology faith and his comments against actress Brooke Shields' decision to take medication to battle her post-natal depression.

Cruise admits to Britain's Daily Mirror that his behaviour was bordering on erratic, and that he didn't "handle" the situations he found himself in with enough control.

"There are things that I could have done better. I could have handled things better," he says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bloom denies engagement

RELATIONSHIPS Orlando Bloom and his girlfriend Miranda Kerr have denied they are engaged following a flurry of rumours about an imminent wedding, imdb.com reports.

The actor was reported to have proposed to the model before jetting off on a romantic break in Venice last week.

But a representative for Kerr has refuted the claims, insisting the couple aren't planning on walking down the aisle any time soon.

"These rumours are not true," the rep tells People.com. "The story is completely false and misleading. Miranda herself has clearly stated she is not engaged. There is nothing else to be said."

The pair went public with their romance earlier this year.

Bloom has previously dated stars including Kate Bosworth and Kirsten Dunst.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diaz avoided ex's new flame Biel?

RELATIONSHIPS Cameron Diaz deliberately avoided Jessica Biel at the CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress rushed through the back entrance of Los Angeles' Kodak Theatre on Friday to avoid running into Biel, who is dating Diaz's ex-boyfriend, singer Justin Timberlake.

"It was a careful tango to make sure they weren't backstage at the same time," a source said.

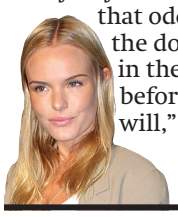
Diaz reportedly blew up at Biel at the 2007 Golden Globe Awards after she spotted her flirting with Timberlake soon after they had split.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dogs before men in Bosworth's bed

PEOPLE Actress Kate Bosworth would rather kick a man out of bed than disturb her beloved pooch Lila at night, imdb.com reports.

"My boyfriend found that odd ... (But) the dog will stay in the bed before the man will," she said.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Love talks weight battle

HEALTH Courtney Love wanted to have a gastric band fitted, but was refused by doctors, female-first.co.uk reports.

The former Hole singer, who recently lost a dramatic amount of weight, prompting surgery rumours, admits she was keen to undergo the procedure after becoming depressed about her ballooning weight.

"Baby, if I could get a gastric band I would! I've heard it's a lot of vomiting and a pain in the a—, but it's still easier than a diet.

Love confesses she was turned down for the procedure, but went on to try liposuction on her stomach after that: "It was horrible and it didn't work."

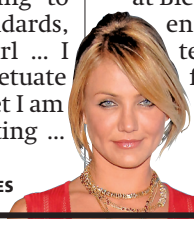
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Can't believe I was fat: Lake

PEOPLE Ricki Lake has trimmed 140 pounds from her all-time top weight of 270 pounds — and says she is holding steady, People.com reports.

"I can't believe I was a fat person for most of my life," the former talk show host said. "I didn't have surgery and I worked hard. There's no secret. I'm active. I watch what I eat."

But she's certainly not immune to the pressure to stay thin: "According to Hollywood standards, I'm not a thin girl ... I don't want to perpetuate that obsession but yet I am also guilty of wanting ... to lose weight."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

HEALTH CARE — Massage Therapy ✓ | Medical Office Administrator ☆ | Retail Pharmacy Technician ✓☆ | Medical Administrative Assistant ✓

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Today Partly Cloudy -3 C / -7 C
Wednesday Partly Cloudy -8 C / -13 C
Thursday Partly Cloudy -4 C / -15 C

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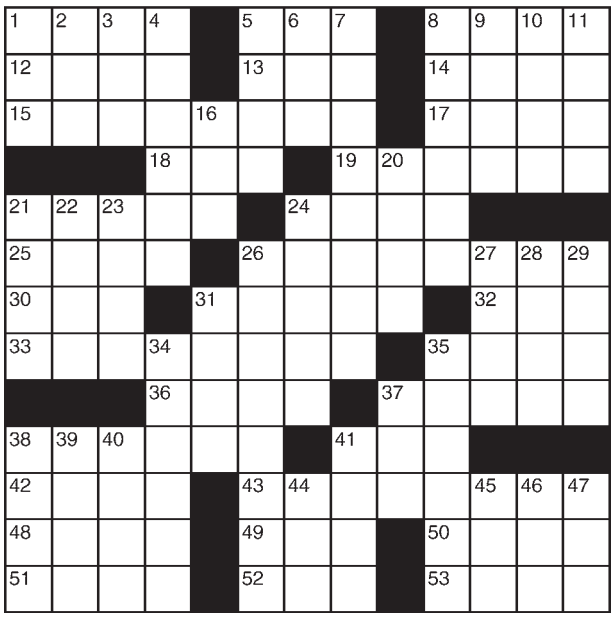
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Eastern potentate (Var.)
5 Snoop Dogg's genre
8 Lend a hand
12 Protuberance
13 Chicken-king link
14 October birthstone
15 Seeker of an honest man
17 Spanish artist Joan
18 Ovum
19 Mucilaginous
21 California city
24 MGM mascot
25 Suggestion
26 God of wine
30 Toward the stern
31 Foolish one
32 Unclose, in verse
33 Bishops' jurisdictions
35 — gin fizz
36 Cupid's specialty
37 Fair of hair
38 Guru
41 "—, a deer, ..."
42 Last notice
43 Dry ice and others
48 Parker House, e.g.
49 Very long time
50 Long cut
51 Elbow counterpart
52 Geneticists' abbr.
53 Promote in a big way

Crossword down

1 Moreover
2 Miss Piggy's pronoun
3 Altar affirmative
4 Sovereign's sub
5 Pealed
6 Pub order
7 Soap that debuted in 1999
8 Grits makeup
9 Grand story
10 Caprice
11 Stratagem
16 Id counterpart
20 Broadway award
21 Actor Everett
22 Stereo setup
23 Grooving on
24 Eye cosmetic
26 Mess
27 Unaccompanied
28 "Once — a time"
29 Progeny
31 "Finding —"
34 Bulls, oxen, etc.
35 Santa's transport
37 Carton
38 Robin Williams TV role
39 Black, to poets
40 Cleopatra's river
41 Lady of Spain
44 Charged bit
45 Rotation duration
46 Kreskin's claim
47 That girl

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3	7	4		5			2
	9	5						4
8			6					
3	6				8			
	7	2				1	3	
			1				9	6
					1			9
1						6	5	
7			9		4	3	2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

R	I	P	■	B	E	A	C	H	■	V	O	L
E	R	A	■	A	N	N	O	Y	■	A	D	O
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	■	L	O	B
■	■	■	K	A	I	■	I	N	S	U	R	E
A	D	V	E	N	T	■	C	A	N	A	■	■
M	O	A	■	A	L	A	■	S	A	B	L	E
I	L	L	S	■	E	G	G	■	P	L	O	T
S	L	I	T	S	■	A	R	P	■	E	O	N
■	■	D	A	T	A	■	A	L	A	S	K	A
D	R	A	G	O	N	■	C	A	R	■	■	■
O	U	T	■	V	A	L	K	Y	R	I	E	S
U	S	E	■	E	X	I	L	E	■	C	A	P
P	H	D	■	S	E	V	E	R	■	E	T	A

8	2	5	6	4	3	9	7	1
6	1	4	9	7	5	2	8	3
9	7	3	2	1	8	5	4	6
1	8	6	7	2	4	3	5	9
3	4	9	8	5	6	7	1	2
2	5	7	1	3	9	4	6	8
5	3	8	4	9	1	6	2	7
4	6	2	3	8	7	1	9	5
7	9	1	5	6	2	8	3	4

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Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Vegetable Primavera

INGREDIENTS:
8 oz (250 g) baby carrots
1 cup (250 mL) baby corn
8 oz (250 g) young thin green beans
Salt and black pepper
8 oz (250 g) baby or small zucchini
Small handful of fresh parsley or chervil
1 lb (500 g) fresh ricotta and spinach tortellini
1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
1/2 lemon
1 tbsp (15 mL) whole-grain mustard

METHOD:
1. Put a large pot of water and a kettle on to boil. Preheat oven to 250°F (121°C).
2. Trim carrots, corn and beans, and cut into short lengths (if large). Plunge vegetables into pot of boiling water, add salt, bring back to boil, then simmer for 4–5 minutes, until slightly crisp.
3. Meanwhile, trim zucchini. Cut baby zucchini in half lengthwise, small ones into slices, and set aside. Chop parsley.
4. Lift cooked vegetables from boiling water with slotted spoon, put into a bowl, and keep warm in the oven. Bring water back to a boil, adding more water from kettle if necessary. Add pasta and boil gently for 5–6 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a large pot. Add zucchini and fry, stirring continuously, for 2–3 minutes.
6. Squeeze lemon juice into zucchini, then add drained vegetables, mustard, and salt and pepper to taste. Toss gently.
7. Drain pasta and mix into the vegetables. Turn into a warmed serving dish, sprinkle parsley, and serve hot.

PER SERVING
537 calories, 25 g total fat, 13 g saturated fat, 52 g carbohydrate, 7 g fibre, 26 g protein
SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Set out to achieve the goal of a lifetime. Make your way to higher ground. A boss may try to set annoying limitations.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You'll believe in miracles. An exceptional person says astonishing things. Someone doesn't understand what moves you.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You've procrastinated for too long. Refuse to talk until you know the facts. A woman will remind you of an obligation.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Try to comfort a forlorn man. Break free of a repetitive relationship pattern. A difficult task must be mastered.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Unfair accusations become a cat-and-mouse game. A wish will be granted. Your opinions will frighten someone.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Move away from a disrespectful youth. An older person seeks freedom. A simple task becomes too strenuous to perform.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be strongly principled and a problem will melt away. Hurt feelings result from a memory loss. Eliminate your resistance to good insights.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Refuse to make decisions about your future. Remain calm when approached by an anxious female. Confirm that no mistakes have been made.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A persistent dream is a reminder. You may travel in the wrong direction. It's only a matter of time until a woman gives in.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't leave town for nostalgic reasons. You'll know whether a lie is being told. Save the money that you want to spend on treats.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't reject an impossible idea. Conflicting signals make you briefly hesitate. Be sure of your feelings before sharing them.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A spiritual quest forces someone to change their behaviour. Clichés will annoy an old busybody. A lack of foresight wrecks plans.

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